OWQ's Reduction of the NPDES Permit Backlog - September 2007 Status Report

These 7 graphs depict the accomplishments of the staff of the Permits Branch of the Office of Water Quality over the past 33 months (since January 1, 2005) in virtually eliminating its backlog of NPDES permits. We have categorized the NPDES permits into four (4) main groups: Major Industrials, Minor Industrials, Major Municipals, and Minor Municipals.   It should be noted that the term "Municipals" includes semipublics and state-owned sanitary wastewater treatment plants.

Universe of Permits

This graph represents the total universe of permits in each of the four categories. These numbers fluctuate periodically as new dischargers receive permits and as permits are terminated due to connection to another entity or due to closure of a company. Also as municipalities grow, they become majors when the flows exceed one million gallons per day.   An industry may be downgraded to a minor discharger if there is a significant reduction in the toxicity of its discharge(s).

Number of Permits Backlogged

These graphs represent the numeric counts of the backlogged NPDES permits in each of the four categories.

Permit Calendar Days

In late September of 2005 IDEM began looking at the permit backlogs with a different perspective. We began tabulating the total number of days that any new or administratively extended permit application has been in-house.   For the purpose of this exercise we back-calculated the figures to January 2005 to show what the number of calendar days would have been at that time as well.   Please note that in addition to the tabulation of each of the four categories, the pink columns on this graph depict the total calendar days for all of the categories.

Number of Permits Issued by Year

This graph represents the total number of new permits and renewed permits that were issued during the 33-month time frame. Since an NPDES permit can only have a maximum term of five years, it is important to remember that staff had to issue a lot more than the original number of backlogged permits in order to reach our current backlog levels.

Percentage of Permits Backlogged

These graphs represent the percentage of backlogged permits in each of the four categories over the 33-month period.   One shows the percentage reductions by date and the other shows the percentage reductions by category.